(d) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard and by when it will be installed?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Proposals for installation of TV transmitters (HPTs/LPTs/VLPTs) in various parts of the country have been received from time to time, from various quarters. The areas uncovered by terrestrial transmission, along with rest of the country, have been provided with multi channel TV coverage through free to air DTH service of Doordarshan, which was launched in December 2004. It is possible to receive DTH signals anywhere in the country (except A&N Islands) with the help of small sized dish receive units. New transmitters for expansion of terrestrial coverage are now not envisaged to be set up.

(c) and (d) A few requests for installation of a TV transmitter in Ransar Valley have been received. However a representation forwarded by the Prime Minsiter's Office has not been received. In view of multi channel TV coverage having been provided in the entire country, new terrestrial transmitters are now not envisaged to be set up.

Rules for private FM Radio

†360. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made the rules for operating private FM Radio flexible; and

(b) whether permission for broadcasting news has been given to private FM Radio also?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Government of India took a policy in the year 1999 to expand FM Radio Network through private agencies (Phase-I). Keeping in view the large-scale default during the Phase-I and after taking into consideration the recommendations of TRAI and other relevant factors, a new policy of expansion of FM Radio broadcasting service through private agencies (Phase-II) was notified on 13.7.2005. The new policy provides a number of new measures to facilitate growth of FM Radio Industry like introduction of 20% FDI in FM industry, allowing networking in C & D category cities within the same region, shifting from fixed license fee model to revenue sharing model etc. Further, permission was granted on the basis of one time entry fee quoted by the bidders through sealed tender system.

(b) No, Sir.

Revision of AD policy

361. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre revised the Ad Policy and issued new rules;

(b) if so, to what exent new rules support the regional dailies published in regional languages, and

(c) the number of publications under the category of 'small newspapers"?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The New DAVP Advertisment Policy, effective from 2nd October, 2007, provides enhanced percentage share in money terms to dailies published in regional languages. The percentage share of advertisements has been increased from 30% to 35%.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Further, to provide special encouragement for newspapers published in languages like Bodo, Garhwali, Dogri, Kashmiri, Khasi, Konkani, Maithili, Manipuri, Mizo, Nepali, Rajasthani, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Urdu and tribal languages/dialects, as certified by State Government or newspapers publised in J&K, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and North Eastern States, under the revised policy, they are now considered for empanelment after 6 months of regular and uninterrupted publication, as against 12 months under the old Policy and the number of paid circulation copies has been reduced from 2000 copies to 500.

(c) The total number of publication under the category of small newspapers empanelled with DAVP is 2274, as on 14.11.2007.

Completion of Panaji Doordarshan building

362. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) by what date the Panaji Doordarshan building under construction is proposed to be completed;

(b) whether the equipments required for the studio have been ordered;

(c) the expenditure proposed to be incurred towards the civil work of the building and expenditure towards the equipment; and

(d) by what date the new studio is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Doordarshan Studio building udner construction at Panaji is expected to be completed by December 2007.

(b) Action for procurement of equipment for the Studio is in progress.

(c) Estimated expenditure towards building construction is Rs. 87.23 lakhs & that towards equipment is Rs. 384 lakhs.

(d) New studio is likely to be commissioned by October 2008.

FM stations operating from Goa

363. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of FM stations operating from Goa;

(b) the area in the State that these stations cover;

(c) whether it is a fact that these stations cater to listeners within a small radius;

(d) whether there is any proposal to increase their coverage;

(e) whether FM stations are allowed to broadcast news-bulletins;

(f) if not, whether there is any proposal to allow the FM broadcasters to broadcast news bulletins; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) At present there are one AIR FM station and three private FM radio stations operating from Goa. AIR FM station covers about 90% area of Goa state.